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a monovalent acid having a water-solubility of not less than 10% by weight at 20°C,
wherein the composition contains dispersed therein water-insoluble particles
comprising the water-insoluble cationic polymer and the coloring agent.

8. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 7, wherein the water-insoluble cationic polymer is a vinyl polymer prepared by copolymerizing a monomer mixture comprising (a) a monomer having a salt-forming group, (b) a macromer, and (c) a monomer copolymerizable with the monomer having a salt-forming group and the macromer.

9. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 7 or 8, further comprising at least one of an ionic polymer which is solubilized in the composition and an ionic polymer which is emulsified in the composition.

10. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 7, wherein the polybasic acid is malonic acid.

11. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 7, wherein the polybasic acid is polyethylene oxide dicarboxylic acid.

12. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 7, wherein the polybasic acid is glycerol dicarboxylic acid.

13. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 7, which contains 0.01 to 20% by weight of the water-insoluble cationic polymer.

14. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 7, which has a pH of 3 to 7.

15. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 7, wherein the coloring agent is a pigment.

16. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 7, wherein the coloring agent is a dye.

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17. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 7, wherein the composition contains 0.5 to 20% by weight of the coloring agent.

18. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 7, wherein the diameter of the water-insoluble particles is 0.01 to 0.5 μm .

19. (New) A water-based ink composition, comprising:
a polybasic acid selected from the group consisting of malonic acid, a polyethylene oxide dicarboxylic acid, and glycerol dicarboxylic acid,
a water-insoluble ionic polymer, and
a pigment,
wherein the composition contains dispersed therein water-insoluble particles comprising the water-insoluble ionic polymer and the pigment.

20. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 19, wherein the water-insoluble ionic polymer is a vinyl polymer prepared by copolymerizing a monomer mixture comprising (a) a monomer having a salt-forming group, (b) a macromer, and (c) a monomer copolymerizable with the monomer having a salt-forming group and the macromer.

21. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 19 or 20, further comprising at least one of an ionic polymer which is solubilized in the composition and an ionic polymer which is emulsified in the composition.

22. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 19, wherein the polybasic acid is malonic acid.

23. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 19, wherein the polybasic acid is polyethylene oxide dicarboxylic acid.

24. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 19, wherein the polybasic acid is glycerol dicarboxylic acid.

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25. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 19, which contains 0.01 to 20% by weight of the ionic polymer.

26. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 19, which has a pH of 3 to 7.

27. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 19, which has a pH of 6 to 12.

28. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 19, wherein the composition contains 0.5 to 20% by weight of the pigment.

29. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 19, wherein the diameter of the water-insoluble particles is 0.01 to 0.5 μm .

30. (New) A water-based ink composition, comprising:
a polybasic acid selected from the group consisting of a polyethylene oxide dicarboxylic acid and glycerol dicarboxylic acid,
a water-insoluble ionic polymer, and
a coloring agent.

31. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 30, wherein the ionic polymer is a cationic polymer, and the water-based ink composition further comprises a monovalent acid having a water-solubility of not less than 10% by weight at 20°C.

32. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 30, wherein the coloring agent is a pigment.

33. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 30, which contains dispersed therein water-insoluble particles comprising the water-insoluble ionic polymer and the coloring agent.

34. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 33, wherein the ionic polymer is a vinyl polymer prepared by copolymerizing a monomer mixture comprising (a) a

monomer having a salt-forming group, (b) a macromer, and (c) a monomer copolymerizable with the monomer having a salt-forming group and the macromer.

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35. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 33 or 34, further comprising at least one of an ionic polymer which is solubilized in the composition and an ionic polymer which is emulsified in the composition.

36. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 30, wherein the polybasic acid is polyethylene oxide dicarboxylic acid.

37. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 30, wherein the polybasic acid is glycerol dicarboxylic acid.

38. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 30, which contains 0.01 to 20% by weight of the ionic polymer.

39. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 30, which has a pH of 3 to 7.

40. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 30, which has a pH of 6 to 12.

41. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 30, wherein the composition contains 0.5 to 20% by weight of the coloring agent.

42. (New) The water-based ink composition according to claim 30, wherein the diameter of the water-insoluble particles is 0.01 to 0.5 μm .--

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Newly added Claims 7-42 are supported by the specification at pages 2-35 and by original Claims 1-6. No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by these amendments.